How to Draw a Pilgrim Hat

11 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

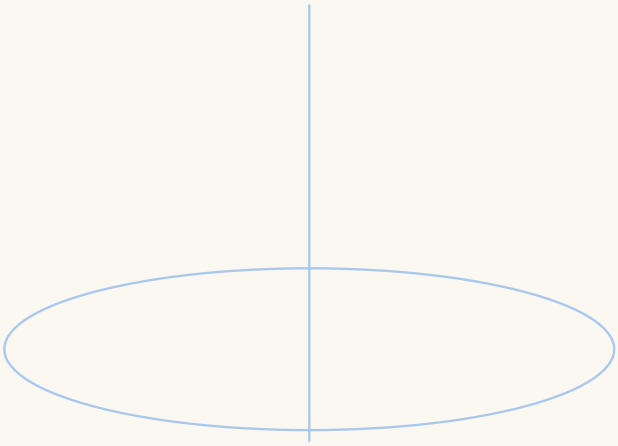
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black marker or fineliner
- Crayons or colored pencils
- Plain paper

How to use this guide

New lines for each step are shown in **blue**; lines you already drew are gray. Draw lightly first, then ink and erase near the end.

Read the full tutorial online →

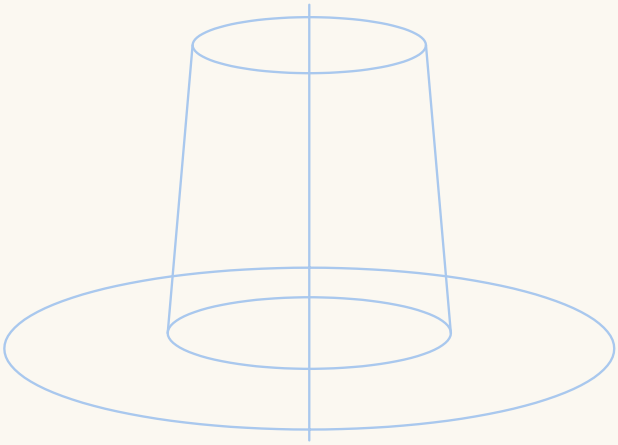
STEP 1 Draw a flat oval for the brim



Draw a wide, flat oval a little below the middle of the page, leaving space on the right for the leaves. Add a light line straight down through its center to keep the crown and buckle centered later. I make the oval about four times wider than it is tall, because we're seeing a flat brim from only slightly above.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the oval in two halves, top curve first, then the bottom. Matching two curves is easier than one big loop.

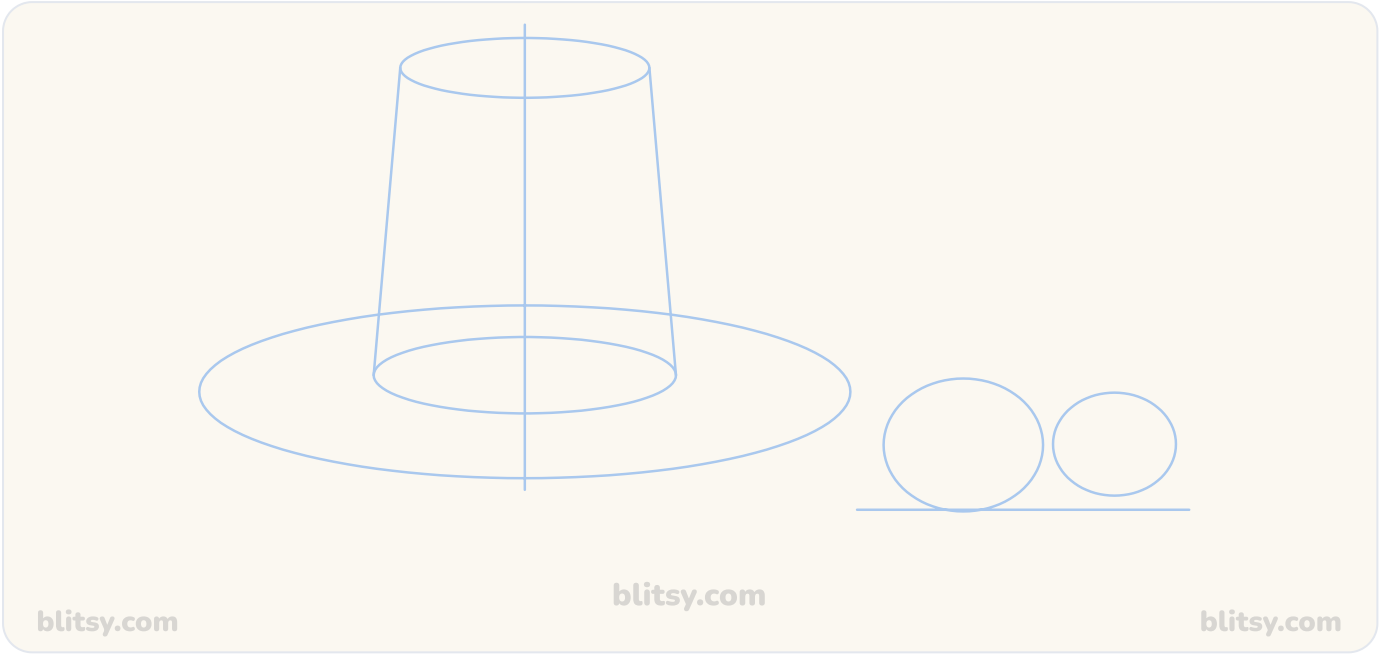
STEP 2 Add two ovals for the crown



Inside the brim oval, draw a smaller oval about half as wide, sitting a bit higher than the brim's center. High above it, draw a slightly smaller oval for the flat top. Join the ends with two lines that lean in a little as they go up. That gentle lean gives the pilgrim hat its tapered shape.

💡 **Tip:** Make the crown roughly as tall as the brim is half wide. A short crown starts to look like a top hat or a bowler.

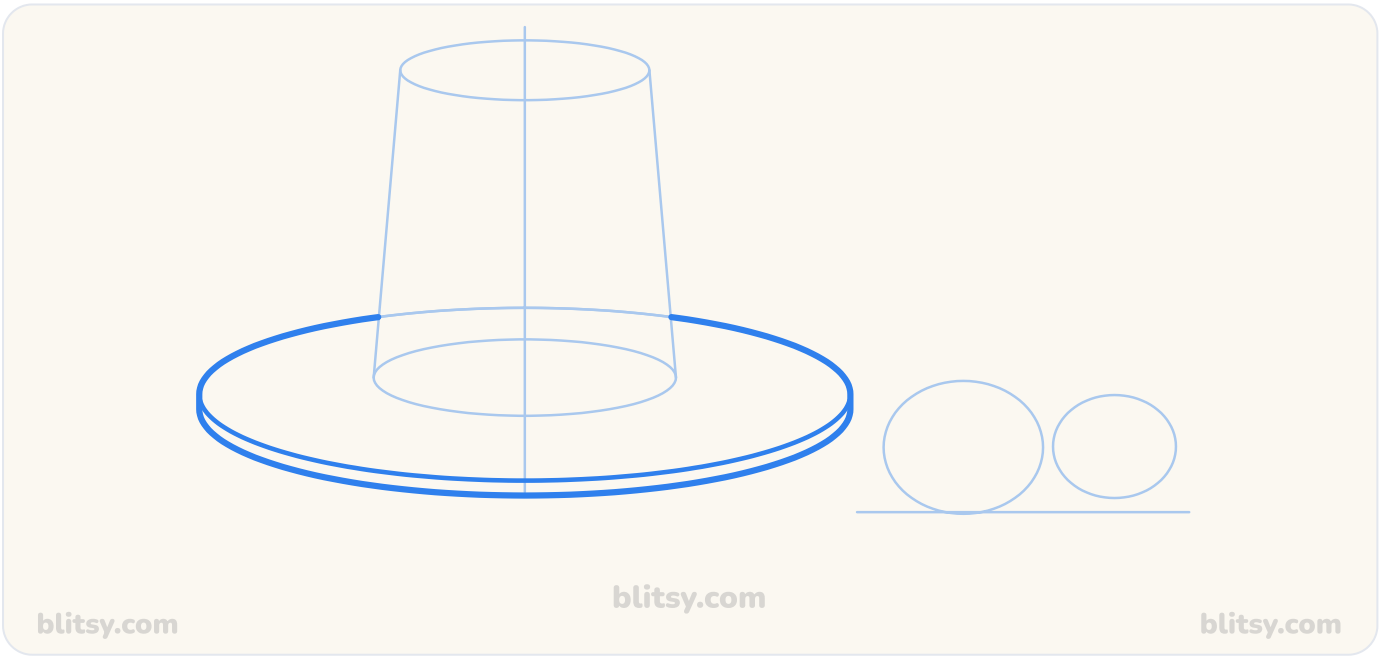
STEP 3 Sketch ovals for the leaves



To the right of the hat, sketch two light ovals for the maple leaves, the left one a little bigger, plus a ground line under them. They're only placeholders, and they stop the leaves from growing big enough to crowd the brim.

💡 **Tip:** Leave a small gap between the brim and the first oval so the two shapes don't merge.

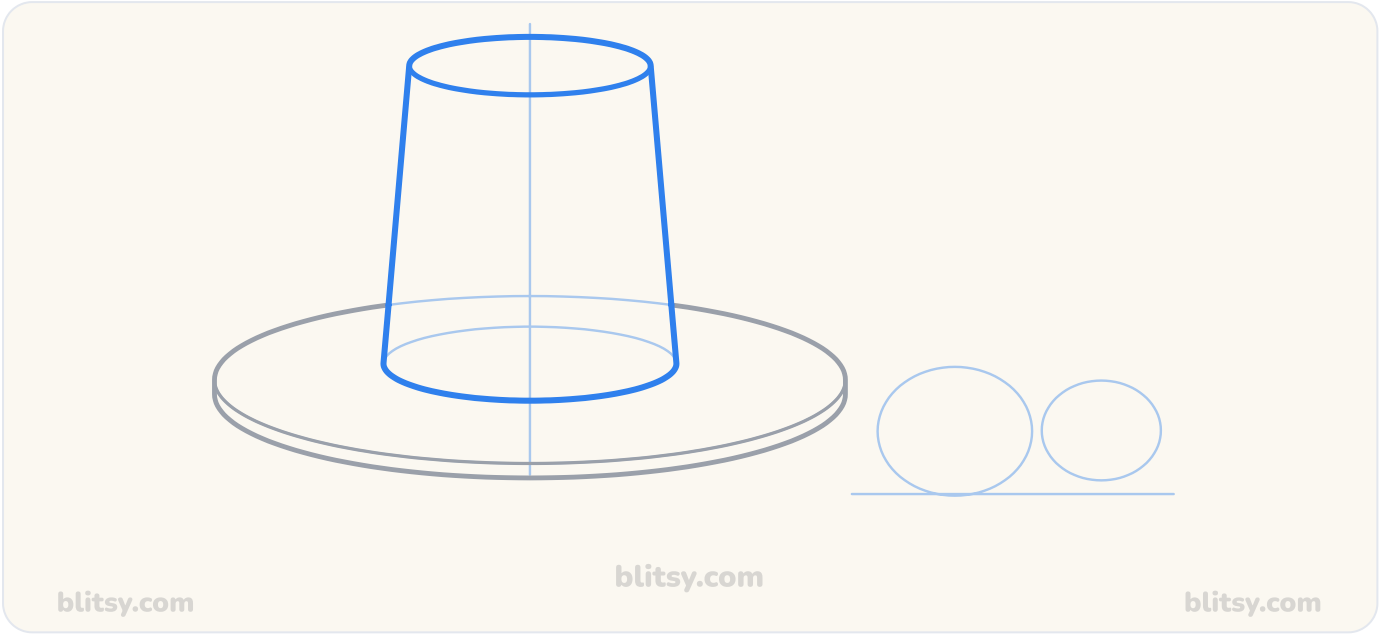
STEP 4 Draw the brim with a thin edge



Trace the brim oval with a firmer line. Then draw a second curve just under its front half, following the same bend. That narrow strip is the brim's thickness, and in my experience it's the detail that turns a flat ring into a real felt brim. The back part behind the crown gets erased in the next step.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the edge strip thin, about the width of your pencil tip pressed sideways. A thick edge makes the brim look like a plate.

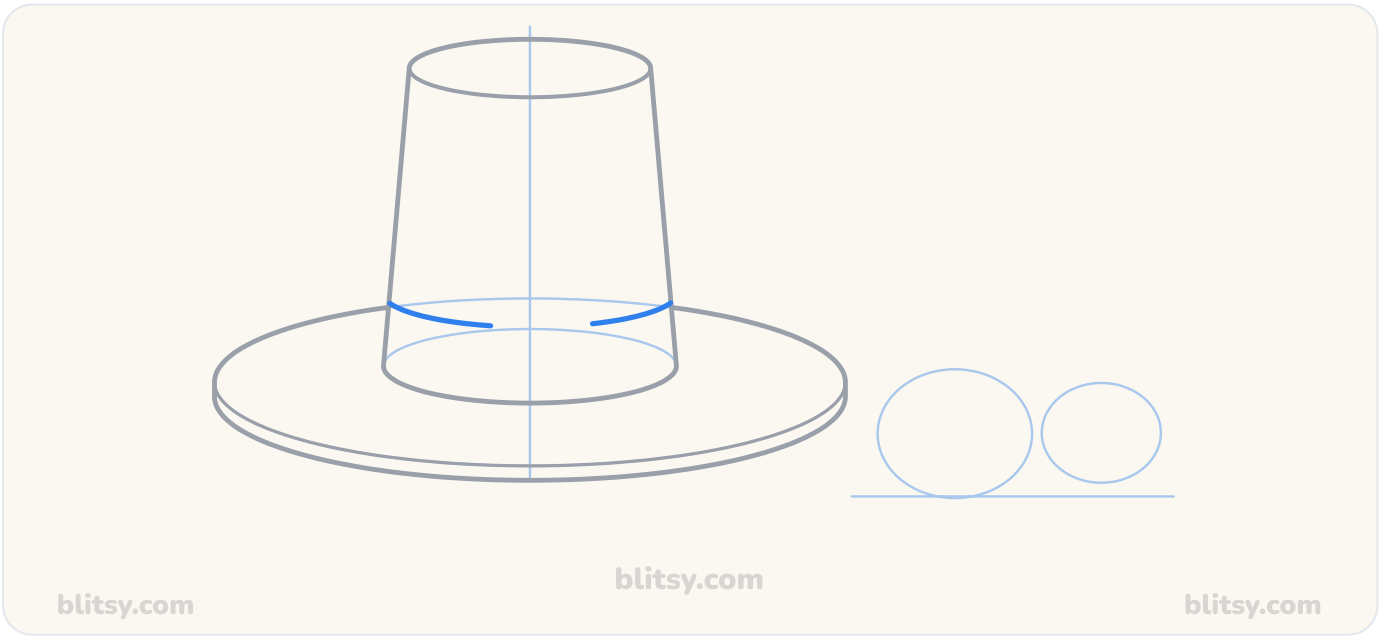
STEP 5 Outline the tall crown and flat top



Erase the piece of brim line inside the crown area. Go over the two slanted sides and the front curve of the base oval with firm lines, then trace the whole top oval. Because we look from a little above, the full top shows, while only the front half of the bottom curve does.

💡 **Tip:** Check that the two sides lean in by the same amount. If one is steeper, the hat looks like it's tipping over.

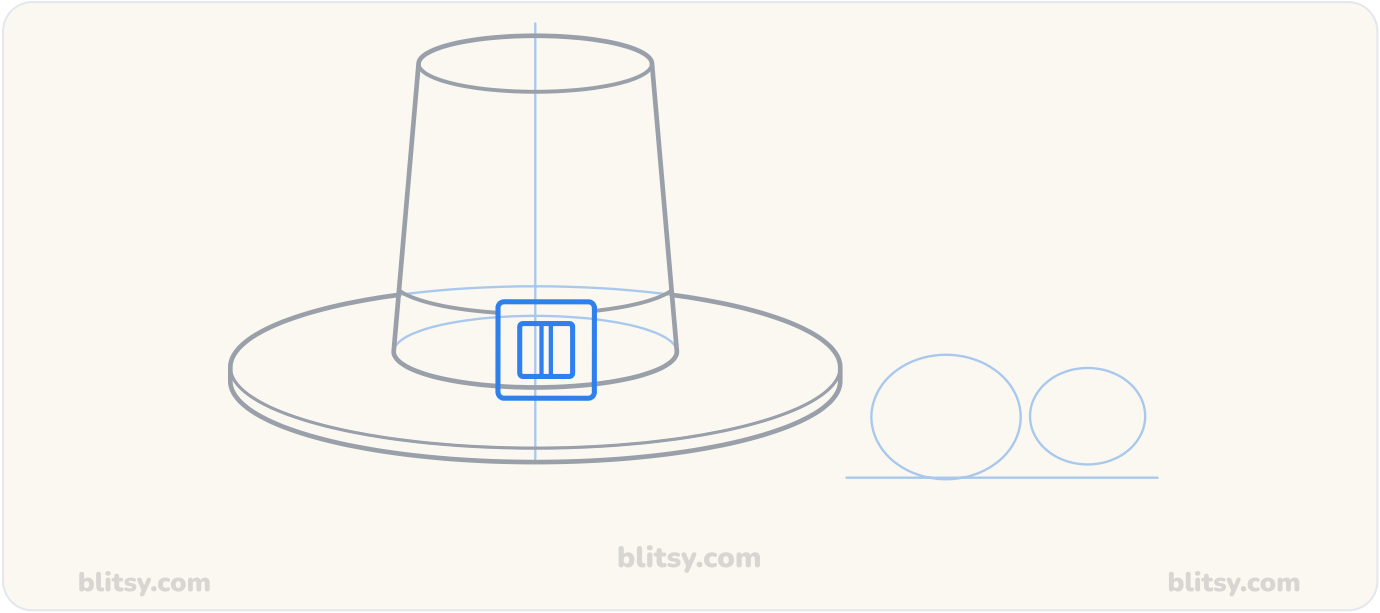
STEP 6 Add the band around the crown



A short way above the bottom of the crown, draw a curve that bends down in the middle exactly like the crown's base curve. The space between the two curves is the hatband. I leave a gap in the middle of the top line, since the buckle will sit there and cover it.

💡 **Tip:** Make the band about a quarter of the crown's height. Thinner bands get lost once the hat is colored black.

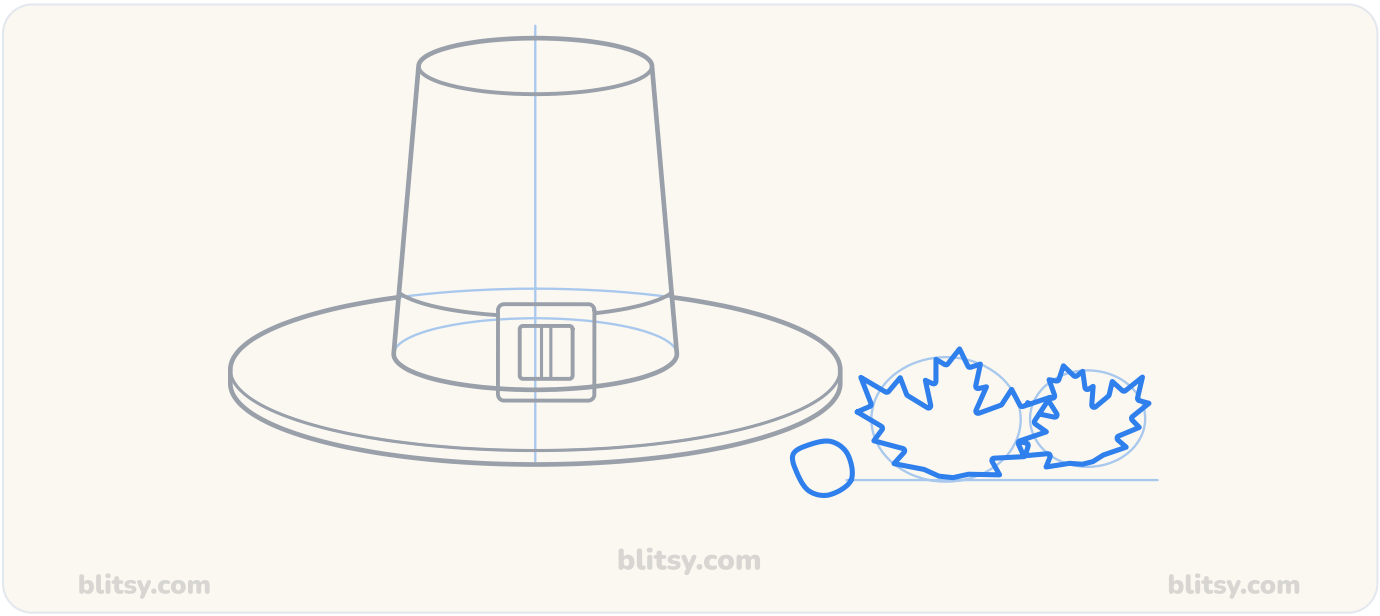
STEP 7 Draw the square gold buckle



On the center line, draw a square with softly rounded corners that sticks out a little above and below the band. Inside it, draw a smaller square for the hole, then a narrow bar down its middle. Big and square is the look that says pilgrim right away.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the inner square first as four dots, one near each corner, then join them. It keeps the frame the same width on every side.

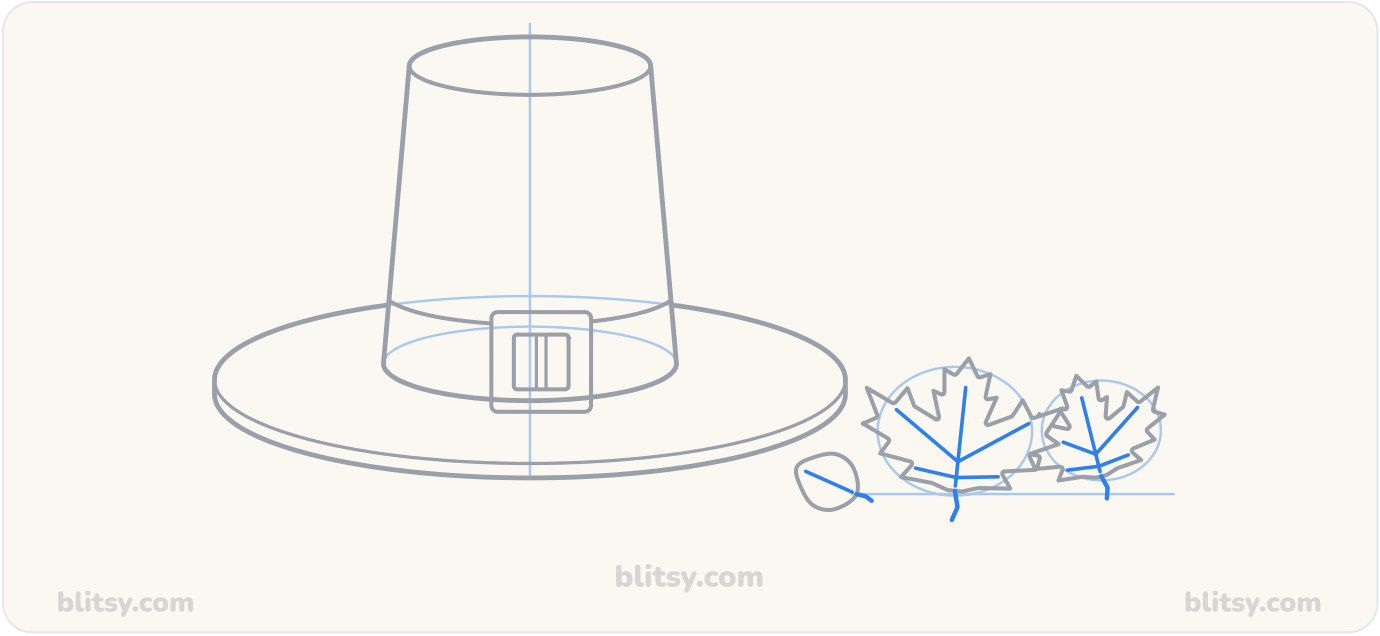
STEP 8 Draw three autumn leaves



Inside each leaf oval, draw a maple leaf: one big pointed lobe at the top, a lobe on each side and two small ones near the bottom, with little zigzag teeth along the edges. The right leaf tucks slightly behind the left one, so stop its line where they meet. Then add a small rounded leaf near the brim.

💡 **Tip:** Don't make the teeth perfectly even. Real maple leaves are a bit ragged, and the uneven edge looks more natural.

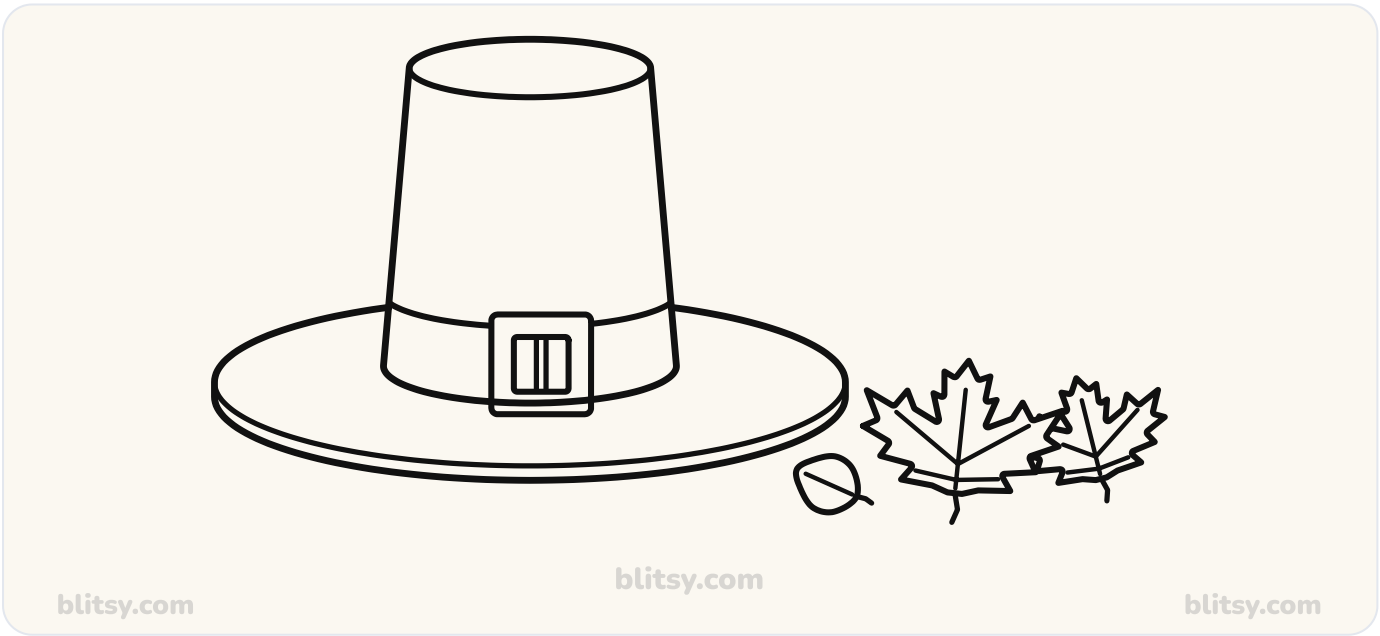
STEP 9 Add stems and leaf veins



Give each leaf a short stem poking out of the bottom. Then draw a line from the stem to the top tip, and a few thinner lines out toward the side lobes. On the small leaf, one center vein is enough. Veins should start at the stem, which is why I draw that first.

💡 **Tip:** Stop each vein before it touches the leaf edge. Lines that run all the way out make the leaf look cut into pieces.

STEP 10 Ink the lines and erase the guides



Go over every keeper line with a black marker or fineliner. Let the ink dry for a minute, then erase the center line, the leaf ovals, the ground line and any sketch marks. I slow down most on the long brim curves, since wobbles show there.

💡 **Tip:** Turn the paper so your hand pulls the marker toward you on the long curves. Pulling is steadier than pushing.

STEP 11 Color the hat and leaves



Color the crown and brim black, leaving a thin pale stripe on the left of the crown as a shine. Add dark gray on the right side of the crown and in a ring on the brim around its base, the shadow the crown throws. Make the band brown and the buckle yellow, then finish the leaves in orange, red and golden yellow.

💡 **Tip:** Color the black parts lightly at first, then press harder. Heavy black crayon from the start can smudge over the buckle.